

Dear Members of the Working Party on Research and Innovation,

I would like to invite you to join an **internal preparatory meeting on the agricultural EIP on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2013 to take place from 14:00 – 16:30** in order to prepare our argumentation line for a working meeting set up by DG Agri (so called Sherpa meeting) where the Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) will be discussed for the first time. From Secretariat side we would like to give you the possibility to closely follow the development of the agricultural EIP. We intend to make use of this group to share information and in particular to encourage you to get actively involved in the setting up and/or running of the national EIP networks or even operational groups.

I know that most of you who need to travel to Brussels will not be able to attend this meeting, but for sure your Brussels based colleagues are more than welcome to attend. And if you can make it, e.g. by linking it with other meetings in Brussels than it is even better. In order to keep you informed we intend to send working papers, drafts or other material from the Commission as soon as we get it and will make sure that relevant material will become accessible via our intranet Agri-Info.

For your information, the **SIP for the EIP on water will be ready as final draft end of this week** and it is foreseen to be adopted at the next Steering Group meeting on 18 December 2012.

Copa-Cogeca being member of the Steering Group was involved in its drafting and in particular thanks to our very active representative in the task force we could include a number of aspects of particular interest for the agriculture sector.

Those of you that are interested in commenting the draft are welcome to indicate their interest to me – a wider circulation is not yet possible as the document is still in the stage of an internal draft.

In addition I would like to inform you that we try to establish an “Agriculture” Action Group in the frame of the water EIP in order to well reflect the needs of our sector (addressing water quality as well as quantity aspects), but in particular to look for alliances amongst other stakeholders. We intend to have a workshop on innovation in agricultural water management in March (20.3.2012, date tbc!), beginning of next year will send you further information.

In case you would like to know more about the **FP7 call on Environment Research in the specific field of water innovation demonstration projects**, please look into the email below as well as into the draft agenda attached.

Best regards,  
Tania

**Tania RUNGE**  
Senior Policy Advisor  
Copa - Cogeca  
Rue de Trèves 61  
1040 Brussels  
tel: +32 (0) 2 287 27 95  
fax: +32 (0) 2 287 27 00

Visit our web site:  
[www.copa-cogeca.eu](http://www.copa-cogeca.eu)

Copa - European farmers  
Cogeca - European agri-cooperatives